

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>HANOVER</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**HANOVER COUNTY COURT HOUSE Historic District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**HANOVER COUNTY COURT HOUSE PRESERVATION ZONE**

**2. LOCATION** (see continuation sheet)

STREET AND NUMBER: **The boundaries extend .1 mi. NE and .1 mi. SW of Rt. 301. The northern boundary extends .1 mi. N of intersection of Rt. 301 & Rt. 10006.**  
(See continuation sheet)

CITY OR TOWN:  
**HANOVER**

STATE <b>VIRGINIA</b>	CODE <b>51</b>	COUNTY: <b>HANOVER</b>	CODE <b>085</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Village</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Varied - Public and private**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**HANOVER**

STATE:  
**VIRGINIA**

CODE  
**51**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**HANOVER COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**HANOVER**

STATE:  
**VIRGINIA**

CODE  
**51**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941**    ☒ Federal    ☐ State    ☐ County    ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>VIRGINIA</b>
COUNTY: <b>HANOVER</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The tiny settlement at Hanover Court House has changed little in size or appearance since the early nineteenth century. Some twentieth century commercial development has occurred at the northern edge of the village, but this growth has had little visual impact on the historic core. The most handsome and least altered approach to the settlement is from the south where from about a mile distant there is an unspoiled vista of the small cluster of buildings and tall trees set on the crest of a ridge. Surrounding this cluster are open fields. The focal point for the village is, of course, the famous colonial court house, built around 1735. It stands near the eastern edge of the court house green - a broad lawn dotted with shade trees and boxwoods, bordered on the east and north sides by an early brick wall. Considered the classic example of colonial Virginia court house design, the T-shaped, hipped roof structure is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and is fronted by a five-bay brick arcade. The rear of the building may originally have had an apsidal end similar to that on the old Isle of Wight court house but the end has been extended and is now rectangular.

Flanking the court house on the south is an old jail, a nearly square building covered by a pyramidal roof. The large stones of its walls were quarried from the nearby South Anna River and are laid in an ashler pattern. Built around 1835 to replace an earlier jail, the present structure was extensively renovated in 1916. To the south of the jail is the Pamunkey Regional Library, a handsome one-and-one-half-story structure built in the Virginia colonial style of the late seventeenth century. Completed in 1942, the library, along with many other similar buildings in Virginia county seats, was the gift of Mr. David K. E. Bruce, and was erected by the firm of Claiborne and Taylor of Richmond. Flanking the court house on the north is the clerk's office, a simple one-story brick building with a gable roof, built around 1835.

Forming the western boundary of the court house green is what was formerly the old stage road and is now U.S. Route 301. Directly across the road, opposite the court house is the venerable Hanover Tavern, a rambling, picturesque two-story frame building now used as a restaurant-theater known as the Barksdale Theater. The very long front of the tavern is broken by a one-story front porch and a two-story wing which projects towards the court house. A tavern has apparently occupied the site of the present building since the early eighteenth century, but the exact age of the building and its various parts is uncertain. It is known, however, to have been standing prior to the Revolution when it was owned by John Shelton, father-in-law of Patrick Henry.

All of the buildings in the historic core of the village stand in good condition. The court house still serves its original function, although most of the county offices are now housed in low, modern buildings on the north side of the green.

Hanover Court house = 42-16

Hanover Jail = 42-15

Pamunkey Regional Library = 42-86-01

Clerk's office = 42-86-02

Hanover Tavern / Barksdale Theater = 42-35

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☒ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

### SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☒ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Philosophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☒ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Theater

☐ Communications

☒ Military

☐ Transportation

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hanover County was created from the western portion of New Kent County in 1720, and was named in honor of the Elector of Hanover. It is uncertain when the site of the county seat was selected, but apparently the county justices met in a tavern on the site of the present tavern for several years prior to the erection of the present court house around 1735. As it has evolved over the past two centuries the Hanover county seat now forms a classic example of a Virginia court house community. All the essential elements of this distinctive form of administrative community are preserved in this tiny undisturbed settlement. The famous court house building, a major monument of colonial Virginia public architecture, forms the historic as well as visual focal point of the community. It was in this building in 1763 that Patrick Henry pled the Parsons' Cause. In 1969 the court house was singled out for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places. The old stone jail and brick clerk's office are early-nineteenth century additions to the court house green. The first clerk's office for the Hanover court was located some eight miles east of the Court House, at "Buckeye", home of William Pollard, who served as clerk from 1740 to 1781.

The rambling frame tavern across the road from the court house forms the remaining essential element of a court house community. One of the best preserved and most picturesque eighteenth century taverns in Virginia, Hanover Tavern also ranks among the Commonwealth's most historic. At one time it was owned by John Shelton, father-in-law of Patrick Henry, and Henry himself lived in the tavern while pleading the Parsons' Cause. The establishment was also patronized by Lord Cornwallis while he was in pursuit of LaFayette. The Marquis of Chastellux visited the tavern after the Revolution and wrote the following of his stay: "Mr. Tillman, our landlord at Hanover Court House...though he lamented his misfortune at having lodged and boarded Lord Cornwallis and his retinue without his Lordship's having made the least recompense, could not help laughing at the fright which the unexpected arrival of Tarleton spread among a considerable number of gentlemen who had come to hear the news, and were assembled in the Court House."

Several battles were fought in the vicinity of the court house during the War Between the States. It was in the village in 1862 that J.E.B. Stuart received his commission as major general in the Confederate Army.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lancaster, Robert Bolling, A Sketch of the Early History of Hanover County, Virginia, Ashland, Virginia, 1957.

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker & Company, Inc., 1968.

Page, Rosewell, Hanover County, Its History and Legends, published by author, 1926.

Peters, John O. and Margaret T., Courts of the Richmond Area, published by the Bar Association of the city of Richmond, May 1, 1969.

W.P.A., Virginia A Guide to the Old Dominion, New York: Oxford University Press, 1940, 1941.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37° 45' 50"	77° 22' 07"				
NE	37° 45' 50"	77° 21' 55"				
SE	37° 45' 36"	77° 21' 55"				
SW	37° 45' 36"	77° 22' 07"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: STAFF, VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION, James W. Moody, Director

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: June 29, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National: ☐ State: ☒ Local: ☐

Name: James W. Moody, Jr.  
James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 6/30/71; 7/6/71

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

1. The southern boundary is the intersection of Rt. 301 and Rt. 1001.

Property Map Form 2. and Property Photograph Form 2.

The boundaries extend .1 mi. NE and .1 mi. S.W. of Rt. 301.

The northern boundary extends .1 mi. N of intersection of  
Rt. 301 & Rt. 1006. The southern boundary is the intersection  
of Rt. 301 and Rt. 1001.

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Hanover County Court House Preservation Zone			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hanover County Court House Preservation Zone			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: (See continuation sheet)			
CITY OR TOWN: Hanover			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: HANOVER	CODE 085
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Hanover, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1949			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

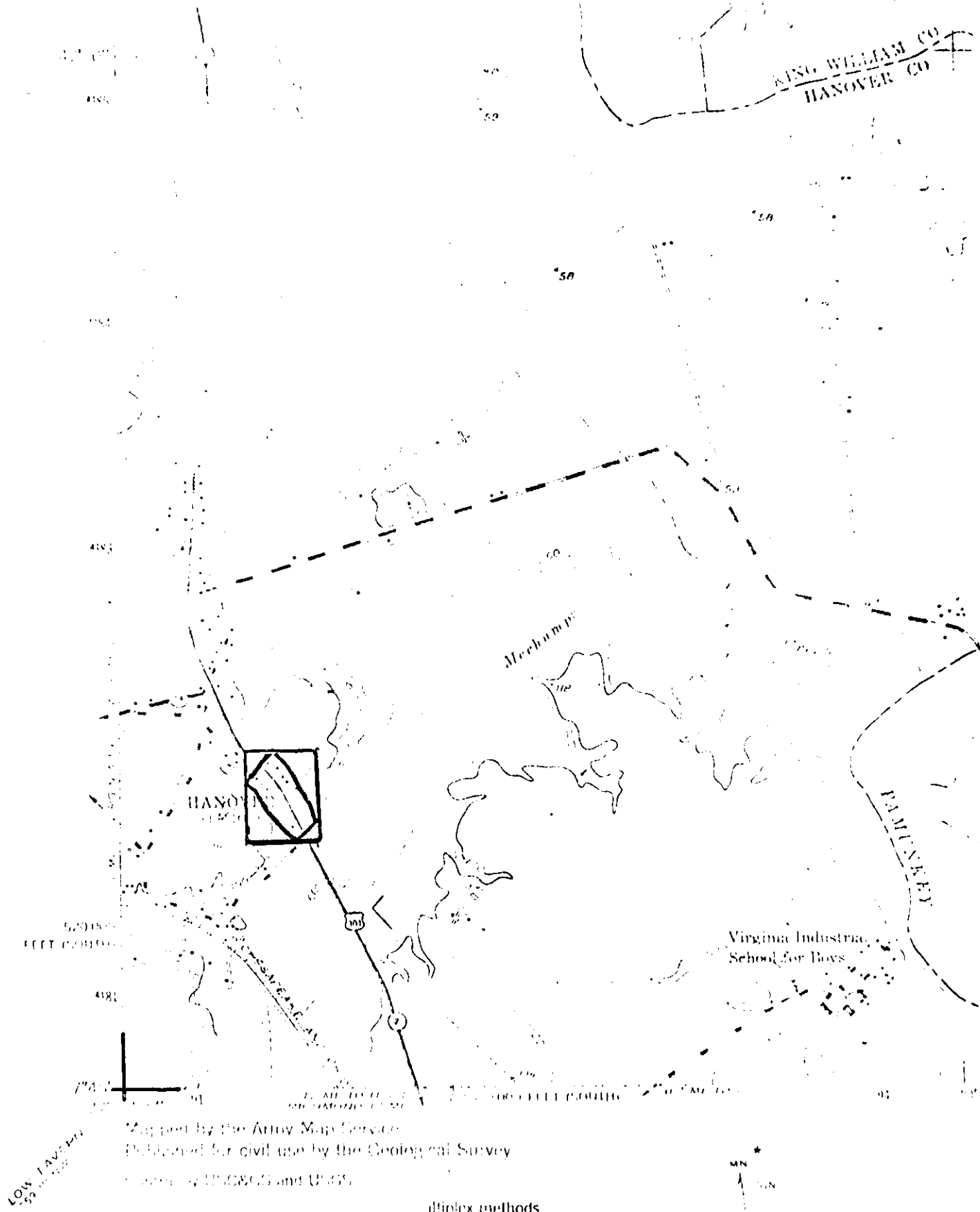
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Hanover County Court House Preservation Zone			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hanover County Court House Preservation Zone			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: (See continuation sheet)			
CITY OR TOWN: Hanover			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Hanover	CODE 085
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia State Library			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1964			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia State Library; Richmond, Virginia			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
1- VIEW OF COURT HOUSE FROM S.W.			



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)  
Hanover, Va. 1949

HANOVER COUNTY COURT HOUSE PRESERVATION  
ZONE

Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 45' 50"	77° 22' 07"
NE 37° 45' 50"	77° 21' 55"
SE 37° 45' 36"	77° 21' 55"
SW 37° 45' 36"	77° 22' 07"

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sk 1949  
any datum  
note system,

grid ticks,

